

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ROMERO SENDS MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATIONS
TO PRESIDENTS CARTER AND TORRIJOS AFTER U.S. SENATE
ACTION ON PANAMA CANAL TRATY

SUMMARY. PRESIDENT ROMERO SENT MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATIONS
TO PRESIDENT CARTER AND PRESIDENT TORRIJOS AFTER THE U.S. SENATE'S
APPROVAL OF THE SECOND PANAMA CANAL TREATY.

1. PRESIDENT ROMERO SENT MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATION ON APRIL
19 TO BOTH PRESIDENT CARTER (PRESUMABLY DIRECTLY OR THROUGH
SALVADORAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON) AND PRESIDENT TORRIJOS
OF PANAMA, UPON THE U.S. SENATE'S APPROVAL OF THE SECOND PANAMA
CANAL TREATY. TEXTS OF THE MESSAGES APPEARED IN APRIL 20 EDITION
OF "LA PRENSA GRAFICA".

2. THE MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT CARTER, INFORMALLY TRANSLATED,
READS

QTE. SAN SALVADOR, APRIL 19, 1978. THE PEOPLE AND GOVERN-
MENT OF PANAMA JOIN IN THE JUBILIATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA
AND THE OTHER FRIENDLY NATIONS OF THE AMERICAN CONTINENT IN THIS
HISTORIC MOMENT IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS RATIFIED
THE CANAL TREATY. THIS ACT WILL LEAD TO THE REESTABLISHMENT OF
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PANAMANIAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER THIS HISTORIC WATERWAY WHICH
HAD DIVIDED THE TERRITORY OF THAT CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRY IN ORDER TO

HELP UNITE THE WORLD.

THE DECISIION BY THE SENATE, WHICH CONSTITUTES AN EXAMPLE
OF FRIENDSHIP, UNDERSTANDING AND JUSTICE IN INTER-AMERICAN RE-

LATIONS, IS ALSO AN EXAMPLE OF THE NEW, VALIENT ATTITUDE OF THE DISTINGUISHED GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, REPRESENTED WITH SUCH DISTINCTION BY YOURSELF, TOWARDS THE PEOPLES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN. THIS ATTITUDE SEEKS TO CONTRIBUTE, WITHOUT ANY DOUBT WHATSOEVER, TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BETTER WORLD, WHICH YOU YOURSELF HELPED TO PROMOTE WHEN YOU PUT THE FULL FORCE OF YOUR SPIRIT AND YOUR POLITICAL PRESTIGE BEHIND THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH LED TO THE MEMORABLE CEREMONY OF THE SIGNING OF THE CANAL TREATIES BY THE CHIEF OF STATE OF PANAMA, GENERAL OMAR TORRIJOS, AND BY YOURSELF, A CEREMONY WITSNESSED BY THE OTHER CHIEFS OF STATE OF THE HEMISPHERE AMONG WHOM I HAD THE HONOH TO BE INCLUDED.

PLEASE RECEIVE THROUGH ME, MR. PRESIDENT, THE EFFUSIVE CONGRATULATIONS OF THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR AND MY CONGRATULATIONS IN PARTICULAR, WITH THE HOPE THAT YOU WILL TRANSMIT THESE CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. YOUR AFFECTIONATE FRIEND, CARLOS HUMBERTO ROMERO, PRESIENT OF EL SALVADOR. UNQTE.

3. THE MESSAGE TO PRESIENT TORRIJOS ALSO INFORMALLY TRANSLATED, READS:

QTE. SAN SALVADOR, APRIL 19, 1978. THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR SHARE IN THE GREAT JUBILIATION OF THE PEOPLE AND GOVERN-
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MENT OF PANAMA OVER THE RATIFICATON BY THE SENAT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OF THE CANAL TREATY, A DOCUMENT BY WHICH THIS HISTORIC INTER-OCEAN WATERWAY WILL BE EVENTUALLY RETURNED TO THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE REPULBIC OF PANAMA. AN EVENT OF SUCH TRANSCENDENT IMPORTANT CONSTITUTES, AS YOU EXPRESSED YESTERDAY, A PACT BASED ON RESPECT FOR YOUR PEOPLE AS WELL AS A SYMBOL OF THE DEDICATION OF PRESIDENT CARTER, FOR HAVING OBTAINED A SOULTION BASED ON DIGNITY AND RESPECT FOR THE NORMS OF AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL LAW. YOUR AFFECTIONATE FRIEND, CARLOS HUMBERTO ROMERO, PRESIENT OF EL SALVADOR. U DTE.

4. COMMENT. ROMERO MISTAKENLY REFERS TO THE UNITED STATES AND THE U.S. SENATE AS HAVING "RATIFIED" THE TREATY. THERE HAS AS YET BEEN NO EDITORAIL REACTION IN ANY OF EL SALVADOR'S MAJOR NEWSPAPERS, WHICH COVERED THE EVENT FULLY AND WITH BANNER HEADLINES.

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